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## EDITORIAL NOTES

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From July 6 to 12 the National Education Association will hold its annual meeting in the city of Chicago. For some years past the

**The National  
Education  
Association**

National Education Association has been the center of much discussion. The control of its offices has been more talked of than its educational activities. Indeed, those problems of school organization which have been in the hands of various committees have dropped entirely out of sight so far as the general reading public is concerned, and newspapers have been filled with accounts of partisan organizations and political strife. The educational public is worn out by this dispute about parties. The fact is that nobody cares very seriously about the control of an organization except in so far as that control or absence of control interferes with the educational functions of the National Association. There is a committee of the association on efficiency and economy of time. There is a committee on rural schools. There are other committees which mean more for the educational life of this country than the association, if the general organization is to be continually disrupted by political discussions. There are urgent problems of a professional character which the National Association ought to be taking up. For example, the whole matter of educational publication in this country needs to be discussed, and there ought to be developed at some center an educational journal which shall reach enough people to have a genuine influence in formulating the policy of the schools of the country. The appointments of teachers is at the present time dependent upon all sorts of chaotic influences. There never will be a teaching profession until some means are found of developing a professional spirit. The National Association used to promise by its organization and influence an improvement of the teaching profession, but there is at present little of this discussion heard at the annual meetings.

Everyone who is acquainted with the conditions under which the association came to the city of Chicago for its meeting this summer realizes that the association has reached a turning-point in its history. Either the organization is to suffer from the Chicago meeting a complete disruption and a neutralization of its influence, or it is to begin an entirely different type of existence. If either one of the so-called "parties" in the association dominates its councils at the coming meeting, there can be very little question that that party will be left to its own devices from this time on. It will be quite impossible for either of the extreme parties to gain control, and, at the same time, preserve the respect of the large body of neutral teachers who care nothing at all about the petty quarrels which have been persistently carried on during recent years. On both sides of this quarrel have been people who have contributed to American education, and who are respected within the spheres of their own activities. Why some one of them has not realized that leadership of American education is of more significance than leadership in a party is difficult for the lay member of the association to see. Is it not time for the lay members of the association, who have not been engaged in any of the disputes of the past years, to assert themselves, and see to it that the meeting is conducted as a professional organization ought to conduct itself? If the association could appoint three or four strong committees, if these committees could be set at work on some of the grave educational problems that confront us on every hand, the question of who are the officers at the summer meetings would sink into deepest insignificance.

The only way in which an organization of the size of the National Education Association can do business is through some sort of representative body. The people who come together in a single auditorium at any time are not competent to represent the association as a whole. They should not presume to take action which is not sanctioned by a large representative group from all of the states. The organization of the association was designed with a view to securing for the major operations of the organization representative action.

**Parties Should  
Be Eliminated**

**Representative  
Bodies Should  
Govern**

This representative action ought to be respected. If the large body of members of the association make it known to their representatives that they will not tolerate any methods of organization within the society which do not recognize the justice of this contention, there is very little danger that anyone will be bold enough to try to gain control by methods other than those which can be recognized as truly representative.

These paragraphs are written in the optimistic hope that they represent the probable trend of opinion and action at the coming meeting. If the association could be brought to self-consciousness and if the approaching meeting could become the occasion for the expression of the sound views of the whole body of teachers in this country, the influence of the National Association would be very great. The influence of the Department of Superintendence is at the present time large in determining the educational activities throughout the country. That influence, augmented by the power of the general association, could improve professional conditions very rapidly. These much-to-be-desired results will not, however, be reached by a mere passive acquiescence on the part of the membership in political campaigning and the struggle for office and superficial control within the association.

**Action Is  
Necessary to  
Secure the  
Hoped-for  
Results**

CHARLES H. JUDD